



Security Council

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Letter dated 22 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter dated 22 April 2011 from Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, addressed to you, regarding Thailand's aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia (see annex).

I would like to request that you kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kosal Sea
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to draw your kind attention to the fresh armed attacks by Thailand against Cambodia, as follows:

Today, 22 April 2011, at 6 a.m., Thailand started a large-scale attack with many types of weapons, including 105 millimetre (mm), 106 mm and 155 mm artillery, against Cambodia in the area of Ta Mone and Ta Krabey Temples located deep inside Cambodian territory. Thai artillery landed as far as 21 kilometres (km) inside Cambodia, at Kork Morn village in Uddar Meanchey Province, while there were violations by Thai airplanes deep within Cambodia's airspace. Cambodia suffered many casualties during this attack.

This fresh act of aggression violates not only all legal instruments as stated in my letter dated 5 February 2011 (S/2011/56) to the former President of the Security Council, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, but also the Council press statement of 14 February 2011 and the statement of the Chairman of Association of Southeast Asian Nations following the informal meeting held by ASEAN for Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 22 February 2011, calling for a permanent ceasefire.

May I recall that, to demonstrate its resentment over the inscription of Cambodia's Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List in July 2008, Thailand attacked Cambodia four times earlier, namely, on 15 July 2008, 15 October 2008, 3 April 2009 and 4-7 February 2011, during which cluster munitions were also used by Thailand, as confirmed by the Cluster Munitions Coalition on 6 April 2011.

This fresh military attack takes place in spite of intensive regional efforts by Indonesia, the Chair of ASEAN, supported by the Security Council, to establish a permanent ceasefire and a peaceful solution, after Thailand's large-scale offensive against Cambodia last February.

This deliberate act of aggression explains why Thailand has until now refused to accept the successive drafts of the terms of reference proposed by the Chair of ASEAN for the deployment of observers for Indonesia to monitor the commitment of both sides to averting further armed clashes, while Cambodia has already given its immediate positive response for the fourth time to the draft terms of reference after its revision so as to accommodate Thailand's position.

This most recent aggression against Cambodia also confirms the reason for Thailand's insistence on resolving the conflict "bilaterally", which is a pretext for using its larger and materially more sophisticated armed forces against Cambodia.

Cambodia has so far exercised maximum restraint and demonstrated its goodwill in order to maintain an atmosphere favourable to a peaceful settlement. However, it reserves the right to self-defence in the face of such deliberate acts of aggression.

Considering the repeated blatant acts of aggression by Thailand, I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council to all members of the Council.

(Signed) **Hor Namhong**